

Administrative Memo

Date: March 31, 2016
To: School Administrators
From: Lisa Sireno, Standards and Assessment Administrator
Subject: CCR-16-003 – Every Student Succeeds Act Waiver for Assessment of Speaking and Listening

Pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), of section 1111(b) (3) (C) (ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), each state's assessment system must measure the full range of the state's academic content standards. Missouri is requesting a waiver of this requirement only with respect to measuring the state's speaking and listening content standards for

- speaking in the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Grade-Level (grades 3 – 8) assessment,
- speaking and listening in the MAP End-of-Course (high school) assessment, and
- speaking and listening in the MAP-Alternate assessment (grades 3 – 8 and 11).

At this time it is not practicable for Missouri to administer a large-scale summative assessment that includes speaking and listening standards. If granted, this waiver will advance student achievement by permitting Missouri to have a valid and reliable assessment system that measures the full range of the rest of the state's academic content standards.

Missouri requests this waiver to allow for continued state and local receipt of Title I, Part A funding in good standing while the state completes additional work to develop accurate, valid, reliable, and instructionally useful assessments related to speaking and listening. This waiver is requested for the 2015-16 school year through the 2016-17 school year. Missouri assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver:

- It will continue to meet all other requirements of section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA, as amended by NCLB, and implementing regulations with respect to all state-determined academic content standards and assessments, including reporting student achievement and school performance, disaggregated by subgroups, to parents and the public.
- It will continue to work toward assessing speaking and listening consistent with the state's academic content standards.

Prior to submission of this waiver request, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is providing Missouri local education agencies and the public an opportunity to comment on this request. If you would like to comment on this waiver request, please do so by email at assessment@dese.mo.gov by Monday, April 18, 2016.